

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTHANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Bridgnorth for the year ended 31st December 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:	L.E. Dickson, M.D. (part-time)
Sanitary & Food Inspector:	J. Wade, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (25 July 1942 to 7 Feb.1946)
Borough Surveyor, Sanitary Food Inspector, Water Engineer:	J. Davies, P.A.S.I., A.M.I.M.& Cy.E., M.R.San.I. (29 Apr.1946 to 31 May 1947)
Asst. Sanitary Inspector:	Miss D.P. Newman. (22 May 1944 to 27 Feb.1947)

S. C. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1946.	6,090.
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1946 according to the rate book.	1,695.
Rateable Value.	£29,134.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£113.12.6.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u> Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	20.3
Legitimate.	117.	60. 57.)		
Illegitimate.	7.	5. 2.)		

<u>Still Births.</u>			Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.	15.8
Legitimate.	2.	1. 1.)		
Illegitimate.	-	- -)		

<u>Deaths.</u>	70.	41. 35.)	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population.	12.4
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	4.	2.	2.
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	-

Death Rates.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	40.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	31.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	200.0
Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough.	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
	Total. M. F.
Deaths from Cancer (all Ages).	13. 8. 5.

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority - see page 1.

There has been no change in the following services:-

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Ambulance facilities.
- (c) Nursing in the home.
- (d) Treatment Centres etc.
- (e) Hospitals.

It was decided that the war time Emergency Mortuary at the Cemetery with its equipment should be taken over by the Local Authority as a public mortuary and some extra equipment should be provided.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The Rindleford Main supply has continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. Bacteriological analyses of water have proved it to be safe for all purposes, though the hardness and chemical constitution have an adverse effect on boiler tubing and fittings. The quantity available has been sufficient but the demands on it entail excessively long hours of pumping.

Steady progress has been made in the construction of the new 200,000 gallon Service Reservoir on Hermitage Hill, where some unexpected hindrances to the work were encountered and labour problems delayed work.

1112 ft. of 4" and 3992 ft. of 3" cast iron water main were laid to the Sydney Cottage Building Site. New mains were laid from the Hundred House Water Supply Scheme to Oldbury, to the extent of 480 ft. of 3" main from Manor Farm Lane to Oldbury.

Hundred House Water Supply Scheme. This was completed during the year and has continued in operation. The quantity available from the well in Oldbury is limited and during dry spells may not be sufficient to supply the increasing demands of the farms using the water. It is also possible that at some times surface water may enter the well.

Tasley Water Supply. This supply has been in operation during the year. In this case also the amount of water may not be sufficient for the needs of the community and it will be necessary to lay a pipe of a larger bore.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

No alterations were made to the Town's Sewerage & Sewage Disposal system, with the exception that 2972 ft. of Foul Sewers and 4220 ft. of Storm Sewers were laid in connection with the Sydney Cottage Housing Site.

Sec. D. HOUSING.

Clearance Areas.

Area No.14 comprising 74 houses was scheduled as a Clearance Area on February 12th, 1946.

Temporary Bungalows.

The ten Tarran type bungalows were completed and handed over by the contractors and the first completed was publicly opened by the Mayor, Alderman Harrison, on June 6th, 1946.

Sydney Cottage Site.

The erection of permanent houses on this site proceeded steadily in spite of shortages of labour and material. The first completed houses were handed over by the contractors and publicly opened by the Mayor, Alderman Harrison, on October 10th, 1946. At the end of the year 2 houses had been completed and 38 were in course of construction.

A 'points' system for the selection of tenants for Council houses was adopted.

Careful consideration has been given to the possibility of accelerating the provision of permanent houses by erecting houses of a non-traditional type, but it was not found possible to put any such scheme into operation.

Town & Country Planning - New Towns Act 1946.

The possibility of developing Bridgnorth into a town of about 30,000 population, on account of its position in relation to the Midlands Industrial area was debated and the advice of the Country Towns Committee of Town & Country Planning Association was sought. At joint meetings with the Bridgnorth Rural District Council held in 1947, this proposal was not supported by the Rural District Council.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Public slaughtering of animals continued to be carried out in Wolverhampton, with distribution to butchers from a centre in Cartway. This arrangement is open to objection in some ways.

Adulteration etc. No action was taken in this matter.

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

There were no epidemics or large outbreaks of infectious diseases during the year, although sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever continued to occur during August, September and October, and the number of notifications of Pneumonia was 13, which was considerably greater than for some years past, The average number for the ten years ending 1945 being 5.5

No cases of diphtheria were notified in this year.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1946.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	17.	17.	-
Pneumonia.	13.	5.	3.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5.	5.	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	1.	1.	-
Whooping Cough.	13.	-	-
Measles.	6.	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	1.	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health for the year ended 1946.

The numbers of children who are known to have completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area in the year 1946 are:-

Age at date of final injection.

Under 5	5 - 14 years.	Total.
57.	31.	88.

No children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection during the year 1946.

The percentages of children considered to have been immunised at December 31st, 1946, were:-

Under 5. 47% 5 - 14 years. 64%

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1946.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
25.	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
65 & over.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals.	3	4	1	2	1	-	-	1

SCABIES.

There were only occasional cases of this complaint during this year.

Infectious diseases requiring other than home isolation are sent to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, Shrewsbury, by arrangement.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer of Health.